

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS J.W. "SKIP"
TINNEN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, my good friend and constituent, J.W. "Skip" Tinnen will soon be retiring from the board of directors of Saint Luke's Northland Hospital and I want to express my best wishes to him on this occasion.

Skip was first elected to the board of directors of the Spelman Memorial Hospital (which later became Saint Luke's Northland Hospital in 1978). He served as an active member of the board until January 1999, when he was elected to Emeritus status, and he continues to serve in this capacity. He is the first member of the board of Saint Luke's Northland or Spelman Memorial Hospital to serve in this role.

Skip has actively served on many committees of the hospital board including Finance Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Joint Conference Committee, Public Relations & Personnel Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. During the years 1994 and 1995 he had a perfect attendance at hospital board meetings. He has been very active in the expansion of the hospital facility. Also, he has been an active supporter of the philanthropic efforts of the hospital which include the golf classic and serving as vice president of the Spelman Medical Foundation.

Not only has Skip served the local health care community, he is also active in many civic and community organizations. He is the owner of the Plattsburg Leader newspaper and is very active with the Northwest Missouri Press Association.

Skip Tinnen's contributions to Saint Luke's Northland Hospital, the community, the sixth Congressional District of Missouri and our Nation should not go unnoticed. For all his many efforts on behalf of that which is good in our country, I want to say "Thank you, Skip, job well done."

TRIBUTE TO HAMMOND
CARPENTERS UNION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most dedicated and skilled workers in Northwest Indiana. On September 18, 1999, in a salute to their workers' durability and longevity, the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599 will recognize their members with 25 years or more of dedicated service. They will be recognized at a pin ceremony during their 100 year anniversary celebration banquet to be held this Saturday at the Operating Engineers

Local 150 Hall in Merrillville, Indiana. These individuals, in addition to the other Local 599 members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are a testament to the proto-typical American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

The Carpenters Local 599, which received its charter in 1899, will honor members for their years of devoted service. The members who will be honored for 60 years of service include: Frank E. Caise and Frank Rueth. The members who will be honored for 50 years of service include: Willard Rains and Wayne Verble. The members who will be honored for 45 years of service include: Ronald Carlson and Leo Ceroni. The members who will be honored for 40 years of service include: Ezequile J. Lopez and Walter Wisinski. The members who will be honored for 35 years of service include: Donald Archer, Robert L. Farkas, Paul Hornak, Joseph W. Komoroski, Robert Lowry, Harold G. McMillion, Bernard Ritchey, Edward T. Scheeringa, Darrell E. Sils, and John Verbeek. The members who will be honored for 30 years of service include: G.A. Argentine, Charles A. Gibbs, Raymond J. Maida, Rudy Medellin, and William R. Underwood. The members who will be honored for 25 years of service include: Daniel R. Brown, Timothy P. Foley, and John S. Perz.

As Orville Dewey said, "Labor is man's greatest function. He is nothing, he can be nothing, he can achieve nothing, he can fulfill nothing, without working." The men and women of Local 599, in addition to all of the local unions in Northwest Indiana, form the backbone of our economy and community. Without their blood, sweat, and tears, Indiana's First Congressional District would not be the place I love, nor would it be my proud home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and outstanding members of the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599, in addition to all the hard-working union men and women in America. The men and women of Local 599 are a fine representation of America's union men and women; I am proud to represent such dedicated individuals in Congress. Their hard labor and dauntless courage are the achievement and fulfillment of the American dream.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
BLOCKING RETURN TO WORK
HELP FOR THE NATION'S DIS-
ABLED

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, important health care legislation to provide work incentives for the disabled was unanimously passed by the Senate on June 16, 1999 (S. 331) and approved by the House Commerce Committee

on July 1st (H.R. 1180) this year. Since then, this bill which was jointly referred to the Ways and Means Committee has been stalled and blocked. The Ways and Means Committee has done nothing to move this legislation forward despite the fact that this bill is good policy and has widespread support (229 cosponsors in the House and 79 cosponsors in the Senate).

According to the Social Security Administration, 8 million people of working age now collect disability benefits under Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). While America's unemployment rate is the lowest in decades, the unemployment rate among working age adults with disability is nearly 75%. H.R. 1180 will help the disabled re-enter the workplace, yet Ways and Means refuses to act.

The current SSDI and SSI legislation forces the disabled to choose between work and health insurance coverage. The choice between being unproductive or uninsured is inherent to SSDI's and SSI's definition of disability which equates disability with unemployability. This is a distorted view in a world where individual worth and accomplishment are measured in the workplace.

Surveys show that most people of working age with disabilities want to work; however, they are fearful of losing health care coverage if they seek employment and then lose their job. The result is that less than half of one percent of SSDI beneficiaries and only about one percent of SSI beneficiaries ever actually leave the SSA disability rolls to return to work.

It is difficult to overstate the benefits associated with holding a job when you suffer from physical or mental impairment. The restoration of emotional wellbeing associated with feelings of self-worth and accomplishment causes a domino effect with a cascade of benefits that goes well beyond the monetary value of employment. It is well recognized that depression is endemic among the disabled and that depression frequently contributes to a downward spiral of hopelessness, helplessness and amplified symptoms. Doctors understand that there is no prescription in their medical bag that will remedy this vicious cycle; in the absence of a cure, what the patient really needs are the tools to adjust to chronic impairment.

Today's challenge in health care is to empower each individual to live productively in the face of impairment. We cannot delude ourselves that medicine through research and clinical excellence will master the problems of death and disability. We cannot look to new miracles to prevent, cure and effectively treat every ailment. The reality is that improving clinical practice is likely to increase, not reduce the ranks of the disabled. We bear the responsibility to integrate individuals with impairments as fully as possible into the fabric of our society. Indeed, we cannot afford to squander the skills and talents of these individuals.

The fact is we should not confuse the difference between impairment and disability.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.